



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montaña

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montaña led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montaña
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
Rita Hall
John A. Hammargren

Excused Absence

Carl E. Moore

Others Present

Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children and Family Services
Geoconda Burbano, Department of Children and Family Services
Candace Rhue, L.A. County Auditor-Controller
Frank Imperial, Department of Probation
Commander Detta Roberts, L.A. County Sheriff's Department
Captain Warren Asmus, L.A. County Sheriff's Department

Staff

Janice A. Davis, Commission Services Staff
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff
Garen Khachian, Commission Services Staff

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chair Montaña welcomed everybody for coming to the meeting and requested that Department Representatives introduce themselves.

Sheriff's Department:

Commander Detta Roberts reported the following:

- The Department of Mental Health and the Department of Justice conducted their semi-annual visit and were very pleased with their detention centers.
- Restoration to the Sybil Brand Institute Jail is still being done. The projected reopening date of both the Sybil Brand Institute Jail and the Pitchess Detention Center is set for 2009-2010.

Captain Warren Asmus reported the following:

- Court Services Division was going to undergo deep budget cuts, which would hamper the prison system, but the plan to cut the budget was curtailed.
- Long Beach Court will be demolished soon and a newer facility will be built in its place.
- The Sheriff's Department doesn't purchase closed-circuit cameras. They are purchased by the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Department of Mental Health: No representative was present.

Probation Department:

Mr. Frank Imperial reported the following:

- For the week of September 3-8, 2007, there was a total of 22 AWOLs from group homes.

Department of Children and Family Services:

Ms. Elizabeth Howard reported the following:

- Title 22 says a Facility Manager has to be on site even if there are no clients present in the home. They're also required to have at least 40 hours of training annually in order to qualify for working in a group home.
- All (13) "Children Are Our Future" homes have been put on "Hold Status".
- Two (2) M&R Group Homes have been placed "On Hold" due to supervision issues.

- The Department of Children and Family Services has been meeting with Mr. Timothy Braden from the Internal Services Department regarding developing a Youth Transitional Program to assist with emancipated youths.
- The Department of Children and Family Services has been meeting with Community Care Licensing, Probation Department and the Auditor-Controller's Office about drafting a service delivery transitional plan for pregnant youths and expectant fathers. If Senate Bill (SB) 500 passes, the Bill will be very helpful to expectant parents.

Department of Auditor-Controller:

Ms. Candace Rhue reported the following:

- The Delham Group Home was audited on July 18, 2007.

Chair Montano and the Commissioners thanked the various department representatives for their participation and reports.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2007 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Hall, and unanimously carried, the minutes of September 12, 2007 were approved, with the following change:

- On page 3, Street Academy, change: "The facility was visited and no one was home" to *home was closed...*

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montaño gave a special thank you to Vice Chair Stathatos for providing the wonderful Greek pastries.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,087.07.

Two checks were paid by the Commission to the following organizations:

The California Alliance of Child and Family Services in the amount of \$155.00.

The Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities in the amount of \$120.00.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Janice Davis, Staff, Commission Services gave the following report:

- Registration forms to the 2007 Annual Group Home Conference entitled "Footsteps Toward Independence" were distributed to the Commission. The training conference will be held on October 11th and 12th, 2007, at the Marriott Warner Center.
- Scholarship Nomination Forms were distributed to the Commission requesting nominations of deserving youths from a group home setting. The Program is sponsored by the California Alliance Child and Family Services & California Department of Social Services, and Community Care Licensing Division. The deadline to submit nominations is October 1, 2007. The scholarships will be presented to the awardees at the 2007 Annual Group Home Conference.
- Registration forms were distributed to the 16th Annual Disabilities Access Awards Luncheon to be held on October 15, 2007 at the New Otani Hotel.
- The L.A. County Commission for Women invited the Commission to attend the Second District Community Meeting to be held on September 24, 2007 at the Junior Blind of America Dining Hall.
- An annual subscription to the Star-News is \$40 a year; Ms. Davis will look into complimentary copies for the Commission.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Montaña reported to the Commission:

- An invitation was received inviting the Commission to the 2007 Program Completion Ceremony for the Phoenix Academy Lakeview Terrace, to be held on September 29, 2007.
- An e-mail was received from Mr. Alan Henry at Community Care Licensing listing two group homes that have recently been closed down.
 - Cleo's Group Home Inc. closed on 8/1/2007.
 - Rites of Passage Residential Centers closed on 6/12/2007.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2007 TO SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

Touch A Life Foundation – 61, #3 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña

The facility was visited on September 13, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Driveway needs to be repaired; no bulletin board in home; lawn needs reseeding.

Allen's Teen Care – 3, #1 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña

The facility was visited on September 17, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Owner didn't have keys to rooms in home.

Washington/Hancock Home – 65, #5 – Commissioners Bacio and Hall

The facility was visited on September 18, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Fire extinguisher had tags torn off; cabinet under sink needs cleaning;

Commissioner Bacio reviewed the following Audit Reports with the Commission:

L.A. Youth Network, Beachwood Residence – 37, #2 and Taft House Group Homes – 37, #1, Audit reports dated August 22, 2007 revealed all areas of concerns have been corrected.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting at 12:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice A. Davis
Commission Services Division